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1053

Approved for Release
July 2000

SUBJECT: Pledge by Chilean Military to Preserve Constitutional
Order and ~~Military~~ ^{Democratic} Freedoms

It is proposed that the existing leadership of the Chilean Armed Forces, (Army, Navy, Air, and Carbineros) jointly issue a statement on October 25th, if Allende is elected President on October 24th. This statement should pledge the military leadership to insure and preserve the constitutional ~~military~~ order and to defend the democratic freedoms specifically agreed to by Allende in his negotiations with the Christian Democrats. To this end, they should further state that they have agreed between themselves to stand together and to permit no change in the existing leadership for a period of one year. They should state that they are taking this position because of widespread fears that attempts may be made to politicize the armed forces. They should further take the position that any subsequent changes in the military leadership would have to have the approval of all those presently in top command. Their statement should close with a ringing endorsement of constitutional processes and democratic rights which can only in this time of trial be guaranteed by a unified military command.

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